

NEBRASKA

INSIDE CORNHUSKER SPORTS

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JANUARY 1979

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Dear Friends:

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your warm response to our first issue of Nebraska Magazine. We certainly enjoyed bringing it to you. It is indeed a pleasure to do business with the people of Nebraska and Cornhusker fans everywhere!

Well, the football season has now come to a close. It would have been nice to end it on a more positive note, but I certainly do not feel the Huskers have anything to hang their heads about. A few bounces of the ball here and there and a season that started out on a losing note could have easily been another "BIG RED" National Championship.

Even though we will continue to cover football year-round, Nebraska Magazine has no intention of letting you miss the action of your other fine Husker athletic teams.

I hope 1979 will be a banner year for all of the University of Nebraska's athletic teams — GO BIG RED!

Warmest Personal Regards,



Thomas R. LeDuc
Publisher

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We wish to thank the people at the Sports Information Department for their time and assistance, especially Don Bryant.

NEBRASKA

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BODY BY BOYD



Boyd Epley

The first edition of the Nebraska Magazine included a feature article on the University of Nebraska Strength Program. The reaction to this article was so favorable that the editor of the Nebraska Magazine has asked me to write a column for future issues.

In this column, we will be taking a look inside the Cornhusker athletic programs, and other areas we hope you will find interesting. We will be keeping notes on the progress of the Nebraska football team this winter, as the players condition their bodies for spring football. We will take you behind the scenes into the weight room as N.U. records are broken by the Cornhuskers. We will visit the Husker training table with defensive tackle Rod Horn to find out how much he eats to maintain his 260 lb. muscular body.

We will bring you a new dimension in Nebraska Football recruiting by identifying the strength level of the top recruits, such as the newest Husker on the N.U. campus, Henry Waechter. Henry is a junior college transfer from Epworth, Iowa. He is 6'6" tall, weighs 250 lbs. and has run

5.0 seconds in the 40 yard dash. Henry has never lifted barbells before coming to Nebraska, however, he has done a 340 lb. bench press on a Universal Gym machine.

We'll take a look inside other Cornhusker sports as well. The rapid physical progress of the baseball team, under the direction of Head Coach John Sanders, should produce a successful team effort this spring.

We will also be looking into the weight training programs for the women athletes and students. The Nebraska Women's Athletic Program includes nine women's sports, and the N.U. Physical Education Department offers nine sections of co-ed weight training classes per semester in addition to an exercise class for women in the evening.

We will list some general fitness tips for adults including what to do for back problems, and we might even include Bob Devaney's exercise program, or possibly what Tom Osborne does daily in his exercise routine.

We will try to answer a few letters in this column, as well. If you have a topic you would like presented in this column, feel free to send in your ideas. If you have a question or a comment please send it to:

**NEBRASKA MAGAZINE
P.O. BOX 81146
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501**

Dear Mr. Epley:

I read the very nice article about you and your accomplishments in the new Nebraska Magazine.

I have a three year old son whom I have been doing some light resistance type exercises with since he was born. Do you have any information as to whether this can hurt the cartilage growth or do any

type of damage.

If this or some other type of exercise would be beneficial would you please outline some type of program. Thanking you, I am,
G.D.T.
Reno, Nevada

Dear G.D.T.:

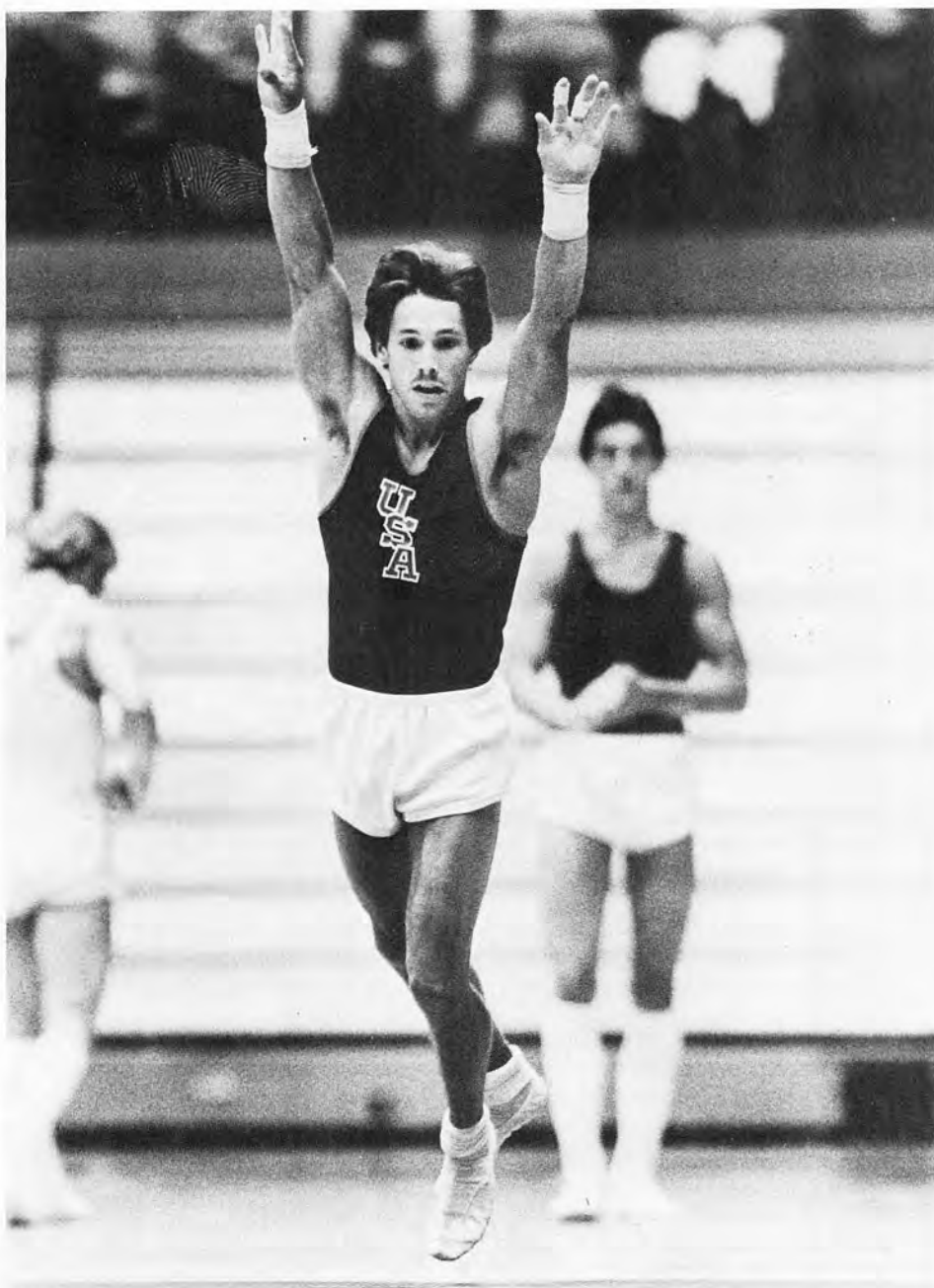
Consider that a three year old child has to double the length of his thigh bone by adulthood. The growing section of the bone is called the epiphysis and is located close to both ends of the shaft of the bone. This is an area of cartilage in which new bone may form, resulting in longitudinal growth of the bone. When the individual is fully grown the epiphyses will fuse with the shaft of the bone. During the growth period, there should be movement of the joints to counteract stiffening and impairment of the natural metabolism of the cartilage. Movement will increase the thickness of the cartilage and improve the exchange of nutrients. The limbs should be moved through their normal range, as far as they will go, gently and with no force applied. No pain should be caused by this movement.

I would recommend a series of daily stretching exercises for your son but no resistance training. (The Nebraska Stretching Routine can be purchased for \$1 from the Nebraska Football Office). A movement in which external forces are involved may be so extreme, that the adjacent articular cartilages may be separated and the bone, ligaments, joint, soft tissues, and blood vessels may be damaged.

Seventh or eight grade would be a more ideal age to begin a weight training program if the supervision is adequate, the program balanced and safety procedures are followed.

Boyd Epley

LIVING UP TO A NUMBER ONE RANKING



by Bill Bennett

Nebraska's gymnastics team received an early Christmas gift last Dec. 14 when the latest poll by the National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics coaches ranked the Huskers the No. 1 gymnastics squad in the country.

In both the NACGC polls, one based on coaches votes and the other on actual score, the Cornhuskers were the nation's top team.

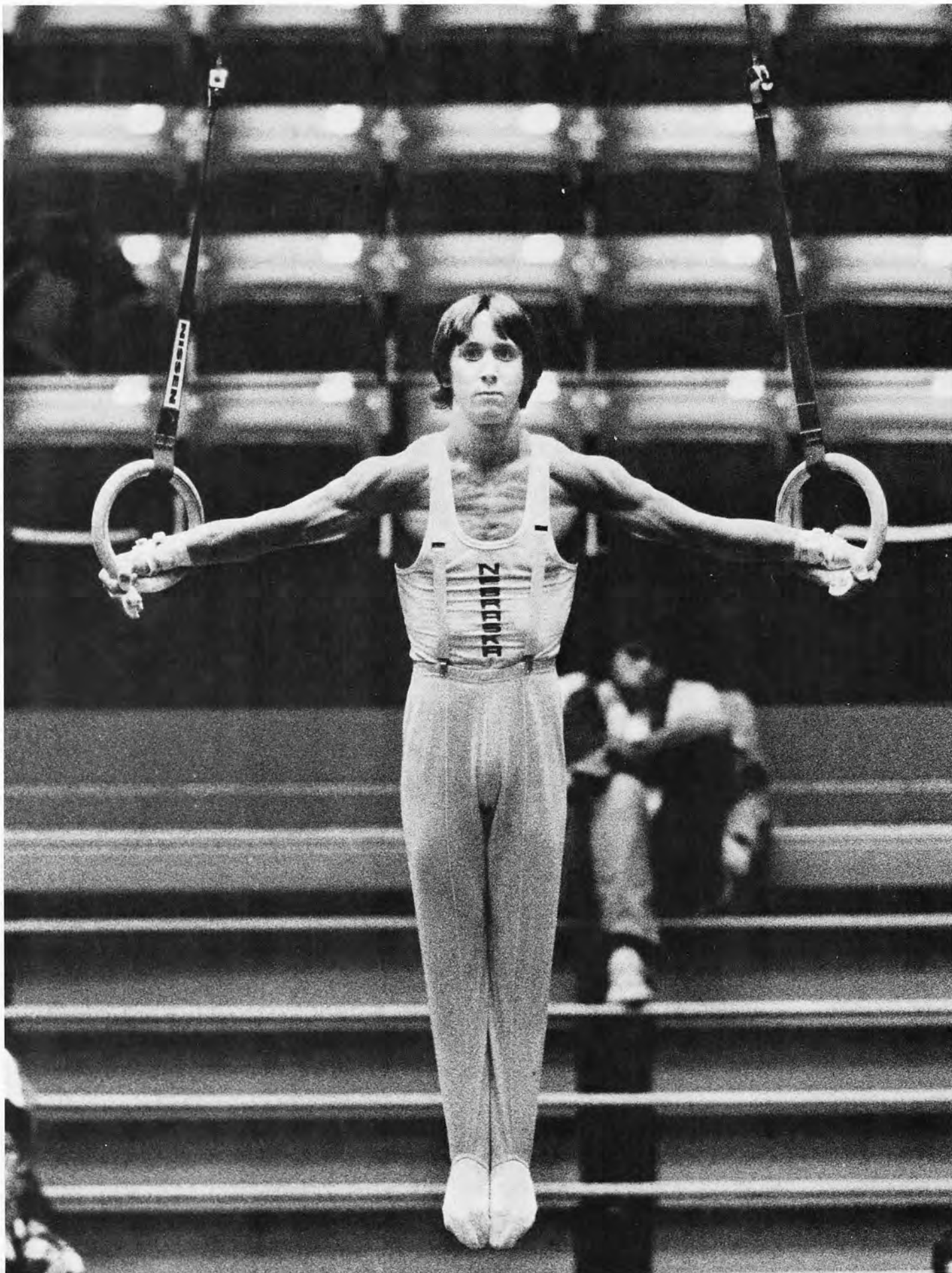
In the coaches poll, Nebraska was followed by Oklahoma, Indiana State, Iowa State, Southern Connecticut, Arizona State, Southern Illinois, Oregon, Penn State and Brigham Young.

On Nov. 3-4 at the Big 8 Invitational at Lawrence, Kan., Nebraska scored a 219.55 in the optionals, which is the highest score by any team this year. Behind the Huskers in scoring are Southern Illinois (214.90), Iowa State (214.60), Northern Illinois (212.00), Oklahoma (211.25) Illinois (210.30), California-Berkeley (205.45), Michigan (204.40), Houston Baptist (201.10) and Army (200.00).

Nationally, in the individual events, Nebraska freshman Jim Hartung is ranked first (55.45) senior Larry Gerard is third (55.30) and junior Mark Williams is sixth (53.45) in the all-around.

In the floor exercise, Hartung is first (9.6) and freshman Steve Elliott is tied for second (9.4) with Gerard.

(left) Larry Gerard is ranked third nationally in the all-around. He is tied for second with freshman Steve Elliott in the floor exercise. (right) Junior Mark Williams shows the classic gymnast's pose — the iron cross, a position that demands tremendous strength and balance. Ted Kirk photos.



On the rings, Gerard is second (9.5), Hartung is third (9.4) and Williams is fourth (9.3).

On the vault, Elliott is second (9.65) and Hartung is third (9.6).

On the high bar, Gerard is second (9.7), Williams is third (9.6) and senior Kirk Fridrich is fifth (9.45).

Since finishing first at the Rocky Mt. Open on Dec. 9, the Huskers spent the holidays keeping in shape and sharpening their routines, according to head coach Francis Allen.

Only Hartung and Gerard competed during the semester break, as they performed at the Albuquerque, N.M. Journal Invitational Meet on Jan. 4.

At that meet, Hartung placed third (9.45) on the pommel horse and still rings (9.50),

while Gerard was second (9.55) on the rings.

The Huskers return to action Jan. 20 when they travel to Boulder to face Colorado in a dual meet.

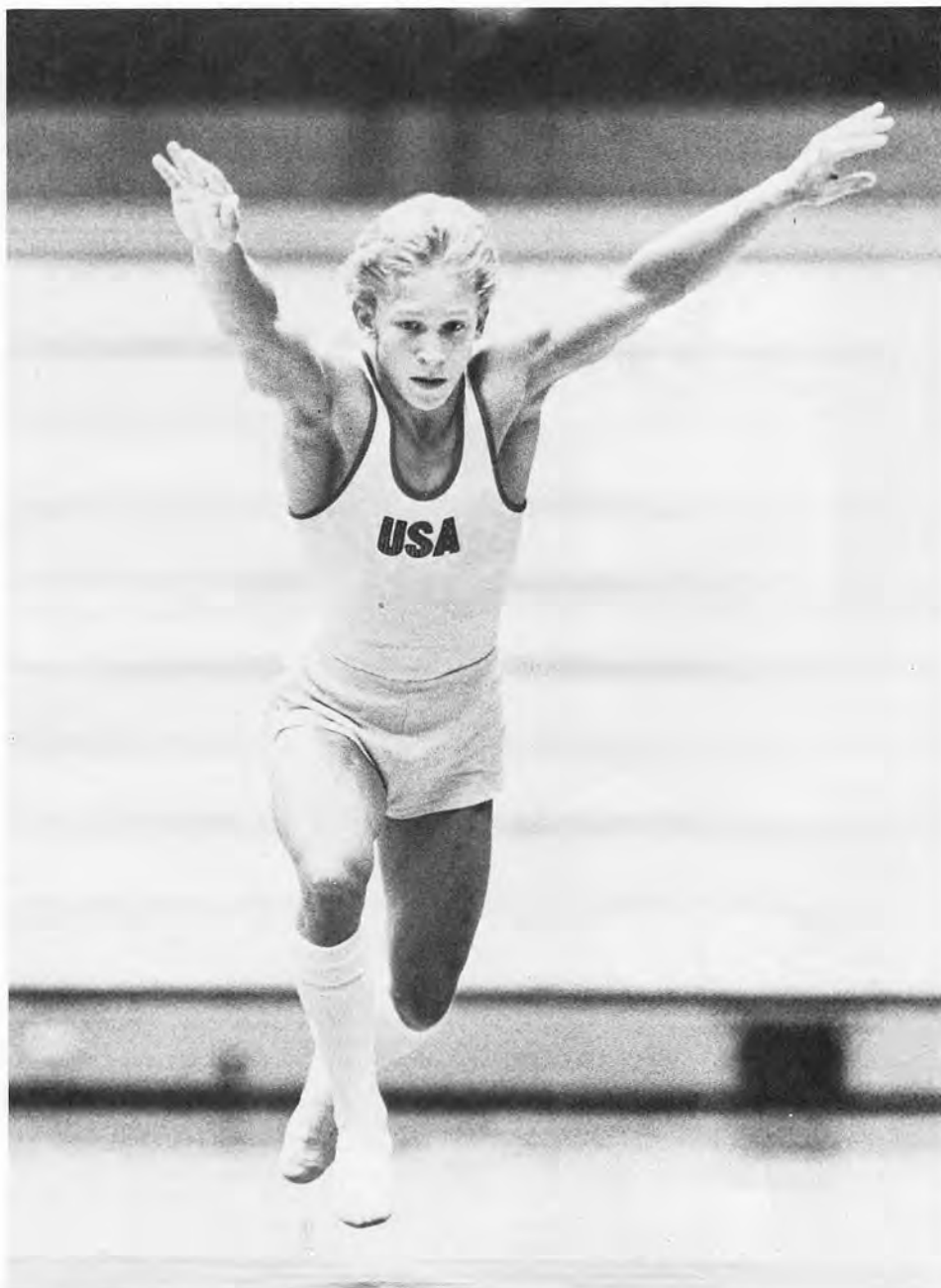
Nebraska will put its No. 1 ranking on the line Jan. 27 at Ames, when the Cornhuskers perform against Oklahoma, the defending Big 8 and NCAA champion and powerful Iowa State.

"We're honored to be ranked No. 1," Allen said. "But these rankings are a lot like football ratings, it's nice, but it really doesn't mean much unless you're ranked No. 1 at the end of the year. Our meet on Jan. 27 against Oklahoma and Iowa and Iowa State will certainly give us an indication of how well deserved our No. 1 ranking is."



(below left) Freshman Jim Hartung is living up to the reputation that preceded him to Nebraska. Currently he is ranked first in the country in the all-around. (above) Head coach Francis Allen (l) and assistant coach Jim Howard (r) watch intently as one of their star performers practices the floor exercise. With such a young team of world-class gymnasts, Allen should enjoy continued success with his teams in the future.

Ted Kirk photos.



The Huskers first home meet of the season is Feb. 10 against Kansas. Nebraska will then follow that encounter with three straight Lincoln performances; Feb. 16-Oklahoma, Feb. 24-Southern Illinois and March 2-Louisiana State. ■

NEBRASKA GYMNASTICS 1978-79 Schedule

Nov.	
3-4	Big 8 Invitational, Lawrence
17-18	Windy City Invitational, Chicago
24-25	Midwest Open, Chicago
Dec.	
2	Ball State Invitational (All Arounders), Muncie
8-9	Rocky Mountain Open, Denver
26-29	Florida Gym Clinic, Ft. Lauderdale
Jan.	
20	Colorado, Boulder
27	Iowa State with Oklahoma, Ames
Feb.	
10	Kansas, Lincoln
16	Oklahoma, Lincoln
24	Southern Illinois, Lincoln
Mar.	
2	Louisiana State, Lincoln
8-9	Big 8 Championship, Norman
23-24	NCAA Midwest Regional, Ft. Collins
April	
3-5	NCAA Championship, Baton Rouge
May	USA Championship
	National AAU Championship

Acquiring the Talent To Keep Things Going

by KEN KONTOR

Granted, Nebraska is not the sun capital of the United States.

In fact, Lincoln averages 128 days of sunshine a year. As for winter activities, the word ski is most commonly used to form suffixes on long consonant last names of Eastern European families. But, with these limiting factors, the University of Nebraska is still able to recruit "blue chip" athletes that go on to obtain All-American status. In the last 10 years Nebraska has had 21 All-Americans. Why do they come to this football rich oasis of the plains?

It all starts in March, approximately one year prior to the signing of the Big 8 and national letters of intent. Rick Duval, in his last year as recruiting coordinator, will start the search for those 30 lucky athletes, who will join the elite group of football scholarship holders.

Four sources are used to find the top prospects. A questionnaire is sent all the high school coaches in a particular area recruited, such as the state of Iowa, asking them to recommend their top candidates. Rick will also get on the phone and place 75 to 100 phone calls to coaches in the area. He will also receive letters from alumni and press clippings from newspapermen. According to Rick, "By the time we do this, we know that there are no players we are going to miss."

One player's name that cropped up on all four lists was that of Roger Craig, brother of former NU receiver Curtis Craig. Ever since Roger gained over 350 yards rushing in the Iowa State Championship game, his name has been popping up on many lists all over the country.

Once Roger is on the prospect list he will begin to receive mail from Rick's office, letters on weight training programs, academics, press guides, Nebraska game programs, copies of **Nebraska, Inside Cornhusker Sports**, and everything else that is meaningful about the Nebraska program. A piece of information is sent every week from April to the signing date. In addition, a volunteer force of letter writers, businessmen and other notables in the Nebraska community, will write an additional 40 to 50 letters to him urging him to join the Nebraska family.

As Rick puts it, "This letter writing campaign tends to neutralize the home state university and we keep the name of

Nebraska in front of the prospect's face. Big Red is always present in his thinking."

As fall and the football season rolls around, Roger will receive five letters urging him to attend a home football game. In fact, any recruit within a 500 mile radius of Lincoln is invited to drive in with his parents and take advantage of this offer. Last year three athletes, Brent Evans, Donnil Bess, and Randy Theiss, came from St. Louis to attend a game. The exposure of over 76,000 fans in the stadium was a key factor in their signing with the Big Red.

During the day of the game Roger and his folks are shown the facilities, including a weight lifting demonstration put on by Boyd Epley, his staff, and a group of strong red

New recruits are always shown around the NU campus to help familiarize them with the atmosphere of the school. At right are shown two landmarks of the campus, Mueller Tower and Morrill Hall.



shirts who supply the muscle. They meet and listen to a presentation conducted by Ursula Walsh, the academic counselor, emphasizing the importance of a good education and how she helps achieve that goal. In addition, the Dean of Admissions is on hand to explain the simple procedures for early registration. Then it's on to lunch and football, Big Red style.

During the season the coach who recruits the state of Iowa, John Melton, will visit Roger in Davenport and, in addition, will write personal letters, make phone calls, and send telegrams to keep in touch and show his personal concern. Coach Osborne will also visit Roger in his home a total of three times — the maximum number of in-home visits allowed by the NCAA.

Players such as Roger can come on campus for one official visit. These visitations begin right after the regular season ends. This is the only time the athletic department is allowed to pay the athlete's way.

Once on campus, Roger will spend a busy 48 hours. While there he will meet with five different people. The position coach, who in this instance is backfield coach Mike Corrigan. They'll discuss coaching philosophies and more importantly how a back will fit into the Nebraska system. Next he'll visit with Boyd Epley and discuss the weight training program as it pertains to the offensive backfield position. George Sullivan is his next stop, where Roger will view how the trainer keeps the Nebraska athletes healthy. George will also discuss any physical problems that he could help with and discuss possible ways of rehabilitation. Then it's on to Coach Osborne where the overall program is explained. Finally the academic needs will be discussed.

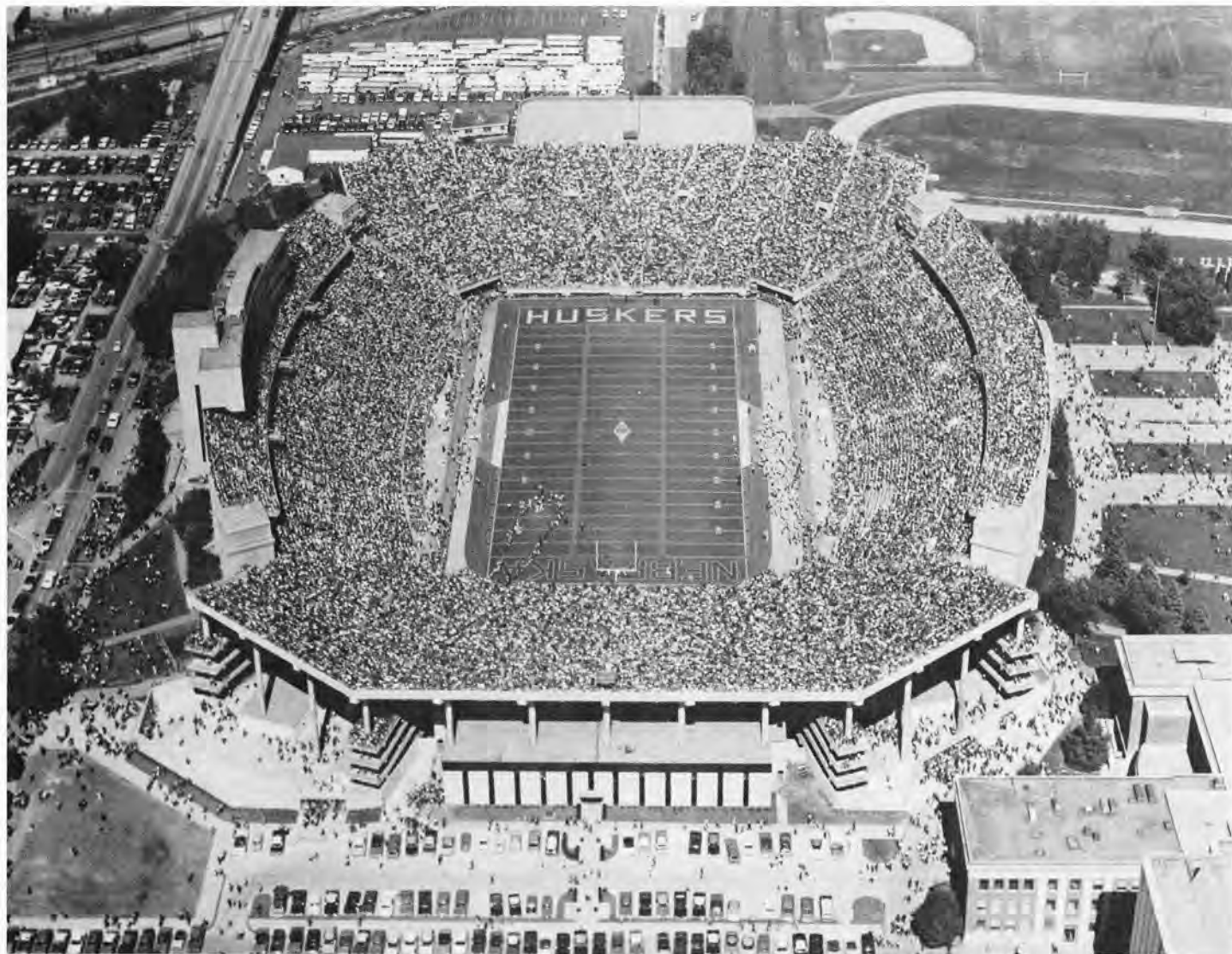
One of the biggest factors that enters into the final decision of whether or not a recruit will choose Nebraska is academics. Ursula Walsh, academic counselor, will meet with the prospect and explain the program —

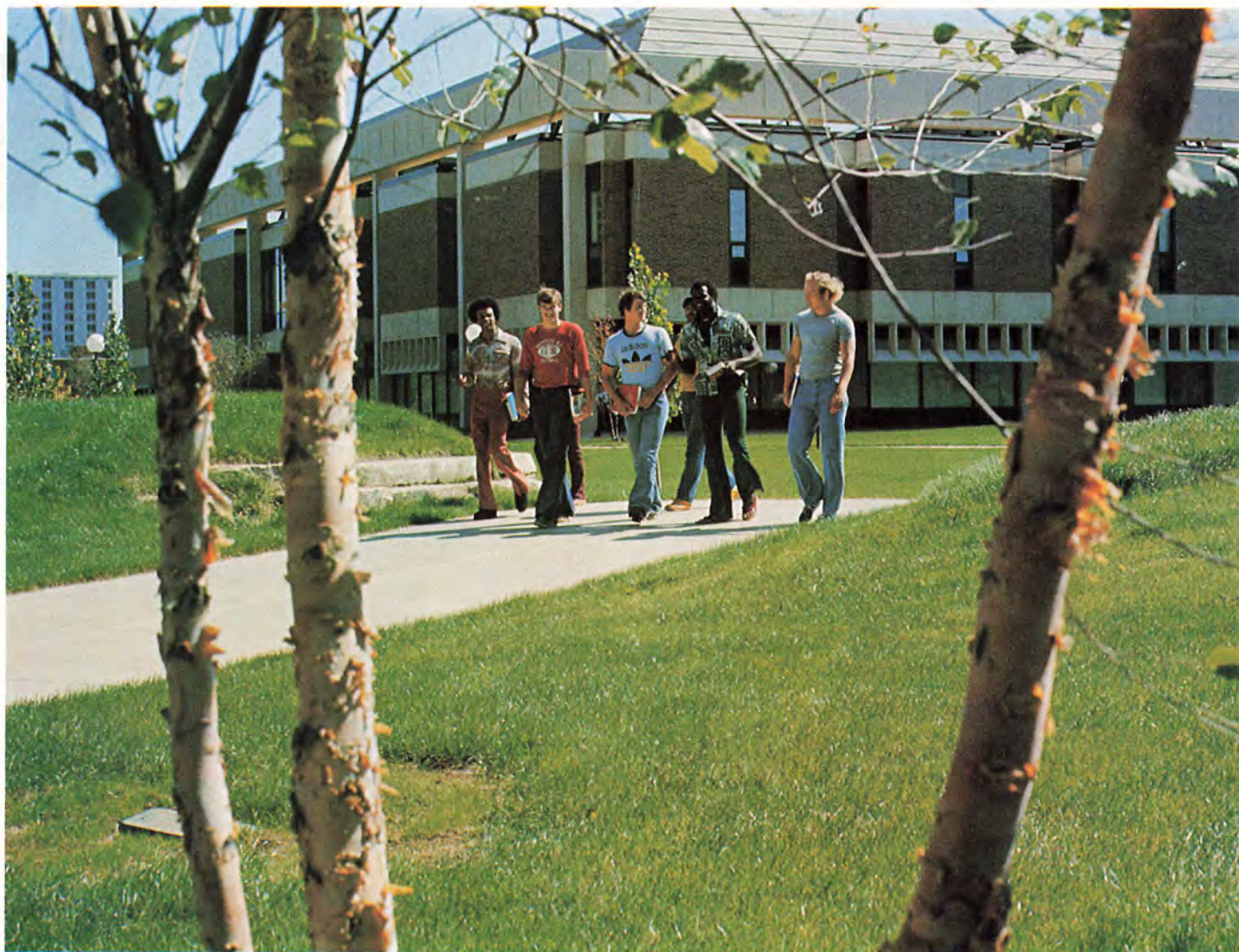
one that has graduated over 90% of all football players from the University. This year the program landed nine players on the academic 1978 All-Big 8 team, two of which, George Andrews and Jim Pillen, made the Academic All-American team.

Simply stated, Ursula will become a second mother to the recruit for the first trying year at school. She will help register and advise on which courses to take. Included in his first year of education will be according to Ursula, "Something about the workings of modern society, about our literary and artistic heritage, and some classes to make them think about moral and ethical problems. I push for these types of courses."

During the fall, prior to the start of the season, Ursula will conduct a workshop on how to take notes, how to schedule time, and library usage. Once school starts, seven hours of study hall are required per week. If scholarship problems occur, Ursula will meet with that individual once a

If a recruit is lucky he drives to a Husker home game during the football season. The sight of a stadium full of over 76,000 people has to leave an impression on the mind of any recruit. The fans, in effect, are one of the school's best recruiting tools.





Tight end Junior Miller leads a group of recruits around a green and sun-soaked Lincoln campus. In recruiting, it is important for the student-athlete to feel comfortable in his surroundings in order to perform well in the classroom and on the playing field.

week and check his progress after every exam. Tutors are also available. Everything is done to get the player off to a good start on his academic career.

But what are the intangibles that finally will make a recruit such as Roger sign on the dotted line? According to Rick Duval, "It's the staff, the coaches, and the friendly people who live here that sell Nebraska."

Ursula's comment, "It is a serious, hard-working, conservative, stable kind of environment and the players are attracted to it. And its friendly, the players comment on this all the time, and the team seems to like each other so well, its that kind of thing."

Whatever the reasons, it is easily seen that the needs of the players are met to the fullest degree, with the assurance that a player will receive the finest attention on and off the playing field.

As to this year, how do prospects look at each position? Which areas are in need of help? The following is a run down, by position, by the respective coaches on the states they recruit.

Mike Corrigan, Backfield Coach.
Recruiting Areas: Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin

"We are looking for recruits who can play fullback for us. This year we had to double up with Berns, Wurth, and Craig Johnson running at the fullback and "I" Back positions. These kids lack the physical specifications at the fullback position. If we are able to recruit enough talent at the fullback position, we might be able, in a year or two, to move Andre Franklin to "I" Back," says coach Corrigan.

With Hipp coming back and the

development of young players such as Johnson, the backfield situation is not critical even with the loss of Richard Berns. Still, depth is always a problem coaches are trying to solve.

Charlie McBride, Defensive Line Coach
Recruiting Areas: Chicago Area, Eastern Missouri

"Right now we have about eight people that I'm not afraid to put in a ball game. They are Rod Horn, Kerry Weinmaster, Dan Pensick, David Clark, Oudious Lee, Bill Barnett, and Randy Poeschl and Brian Hedrick — both recovering from knee surgery. The real problem I face is that all of these guys are seniors next year, with the exception of Clark. That means that this year will be an important year in the recruiting of defensive linemen. If we don't



Head trainer George Sullivan talks to prospective recruits about any physical problems they may have.



Academic adviser Ursula Walsh helps students adjust to the rigors of not only college academics, but also the rigors of school and athletic commitments.

recruit some quality linemen we could be in trouble later on," says a concerned McBride.

With eight quality players returning, plus an improving group of freshmen, the defensive line situation will be one of Nebraska's strongest spots for next year at least. Henry Waechter, a JC transfer from Waldorf Junior College, Iowa, is a bright prospect. Henry is 6-6, 265, and has a 40 yard dash time of 5.0. Waechter, along with David Clark, will make Big Red strong at defensive tackle for years to come.

Cletus Fisher, Offensive Line Coach
Recruiting Area: Nebraska

"We'll lose three All-Big 8 players, one who is an All-American. We'll be pretty well shot out at guard and tackle for next year, as far as experience is concerned. We have three or four people that can play Big 8 caliber football coming back. There are some young people that we'll find out about next spring. Hopefully we can recruit one or two people who can play for us as freshmen. The tough job is to find someone

who can pass block and run block with equal ability. This takes a couple of years to develop. As far as prospects there are four players in the 6-3 to 6-6 range in the Omaha area who we are interested in."

It's obvious that losing most of an offensive line who overall graded out 1.8 on a 2.0 scale for the season. This line was responsible for Nebraska being the nation's leader in total offense. So, the recruiting task for this area is important. But with any type of material at all, you can count on Coach Fisher to develop another patented Nebraska offensive line that plays smart football.

Gene Huey, Tight End/Wingback Coach
Recruiting Areas: Los Angeles Area, Arizona, New Mexico, Alabama.

"At wingback we have some good kids coming back next year so we are not recruiting that position very heavily, but if we should find one that is a good ball player, then we'll definitely recruit him."

With the return of Junior Miller (All-Big 8 as a sophomore) Nebraska is set at the tight end spot. At wingback, Kenny Brown

will be a senior next year but with a host of young speedsters coming along the future is very bright.

Lange Van Zandt, Secondary/Defensive Coordinator
Recruiting Areas: Kansas, Western Missouri

"It's tough to find and recruit defensive backs because the best athletes in high school usually play offense. Another problem is that the film we receive from high schools is taken from too low a position making it difficult to see the secondary action. We look at the people on offense that have the speed, height, and change of direction to play the secondary. Right now we are off to a better start than last year which, I feel, was a good recruiting year. We are losing three backs: Jim Pillen, Jeff Hansen, and Jim Fisher," says Van Zandt.

There is no need to panic because Nebraska has redshirted some outstanding talent in the form of Rodney Lewis, Sammy Sims, Phillip Trent, Ric Lindquist, Jeff Krejci, and L.G. Searcey. With Andy Means

coming back, this should be an interesting spring with some good athletes fighting for the blackshirt.

Jerry Moore, Receiver Coach
Recruiting Areas: Texas, Oklahoma, Mississippi

(Editor's note: Since the interview for this article was done, Jerry Moore has accepted the head coaching job at North Texas State College. He will be sorely missed but everyone involved in athletics knows that a coach must go where his best opportunity lies. The man who replaces Moore will be looking for essentially the same types of athletes outlined by Moore below.)

"We look for as much speed as possible. We like to recruit seven to nine kids with good speed at the receiver, running back, and secondary positions. In Texas there are more good running backs than I've seen in many years. Everyone in the Big 8 and Southwest Conferences should get at

least one quality back with speed. But there are only four with the potential of being a split end. One is possibly a world class sprinter. The slowest runs a 9.5-100 yard dash. They all have good size, the smallest being 170 lbs."

If Nebraska lands one of these burners it could mean the best break-away threat since Johnny Rodgers.

George Darlington, Defensive End Coach
Recruiting Area: East Coast

"There is an outstanding recruit that we are interested in from the East Coast who would make a good defensive end. Nationally we have five players who have expressed interest in Nebraska. Hopefully Nebraska can get one or two. The biggest thing to look for in a defensive end is size, height, quickness, and a good all-around athlete with good change of direction."

Even with the loss of George Andrews, Nebraska will be in good shape if one "blue

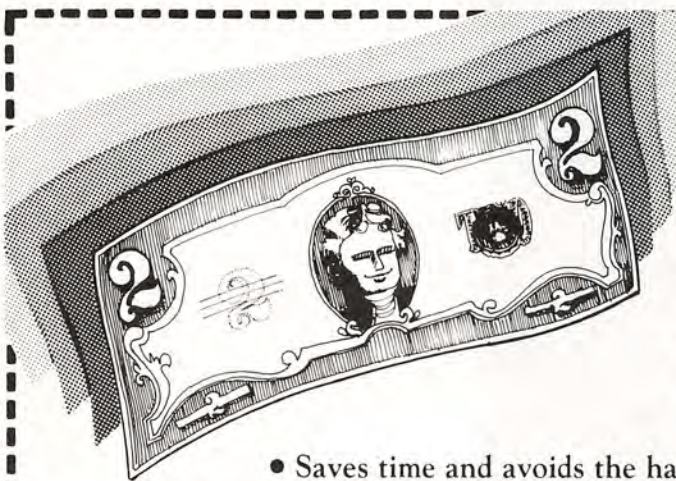
chipper" comes through.

John Melton, Linebacker Coach
Recruiting Area: Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois

"Right now we aren't in any hurry to go out and recruit linebackers considering who we have coming back next year. But it's like anything else, we are looking for good football players who can play a number of positions."

With the loss of standouts Lee Kuntz and Bruce Dunning it's obvious that Nebraska has done its homework in recruiting outstanding linebackers.

That's the run down. All that is left to do is hope that on February 14th and February 21st, the date for the Big 8 and national letters of intent, will carry the signatures of some of the top high school talent in the country and that the "blue chip" prospects stack up with Nebraska. ■



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Repeats On The Holiday Tournament Circuit



by Steve Pederson

If you are a University of Nebraska basketball player, don't bother unpacking your suitcase from December 21-30 because there will not be time. Christmas time, in basketball circles, means tournament time.

No sooner did the Huskers return home from Las Vegas and the Rebel Roundup then it was time to board another plane bound for the Big 8 Holiday Tournament in Kansas City. The Nebraska cagers made the most of their time as they finished second in the Las Vegas Tournament and third in the Big 8 Holiday affair.

While there is an atmosphere filled with pressure in college basketball today, Coach Joe Cipriano and his team found the change of scenery in the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas a relaxing change as well as entertaining. But on the court, the Huskers were all business as they won their first game over California-Santa Barbara 75-55 before dropping a 79-63 decision to the tourney host, Nevada-Las Vegas, in the championship game.

After enjoying Christmas day at home, the Huskers were back in the air on the following day enroute to Kansas City and Kemper Arena for their first confrontations with Big 8 teams this season.

This was the final Big 8 Holiday Tournament as a majority of conference coaches voted to discontinue the event after 33 years of existence. Nebraska, in 1979, will exchange these dates for a visit to the Rainbow Classic in Hawaii.

In a repeat of the 1977 tournament, the Huskers captured third place and in the same fashion. A loss in the second game

Big Carl McPipe led the way for the Huskers in their opening game with the Missouri Tigers in the Big 8 Holiday Tournament. He scored 16 points and pulled down 8 rebounds as Nebraska took a 58-56 overtime win over the Tigers. (right) Andre Smith has given solid performances all season with good scoring and rebounding. Both Smith and McPipe were named to the all-Tournament team at the Rebel Classic in Las Vegas. Ted Kirk photos.



was sandwiched by victories in the first and third outings.

The Huskers initial tournament assignment against Missouri resulted in a 58-56 overtime win. Advancing to the second round to face Colorado, however, did not have such an auspicious ending as the Buffaloes took a 74-61 decision. Down, but not out, Nebraska rebounded to capture third place with a 69-53 victory over Oklahoma.

If the tourney, as billed, is truly a preview of the 1979 league season, Coach Joe Cipriano and his Husky cagers will present a strong challenge to Kansas for the Big 8 Championship. While struggling in their first two outings, the Huskers, minus the services of All-Big 8 guard Brian Banks, finished the holiday extravaganza with their strongest showing against the Sooners.

Banks, who sustained a knee injury at the 15 minute mark of the first half in the Missouri contest, stayed on the sidelines for the remainder of the tourney.

While this was a temporary setback, Cipriano was very pleased with the showing of Gerald Myrthil who replaced Banks. The 6-2 sophomore from New York City was an admirable replacement and proved to be a fine floor leader as well as sound scoring threat.

After Myrthil's assist to Carl McPipe for the winning bucket in the Missouri encounter, Cipriano commented, "Gerald did a good job of coming off the bench. He has great quickness and made a great play to McPipe at the end."

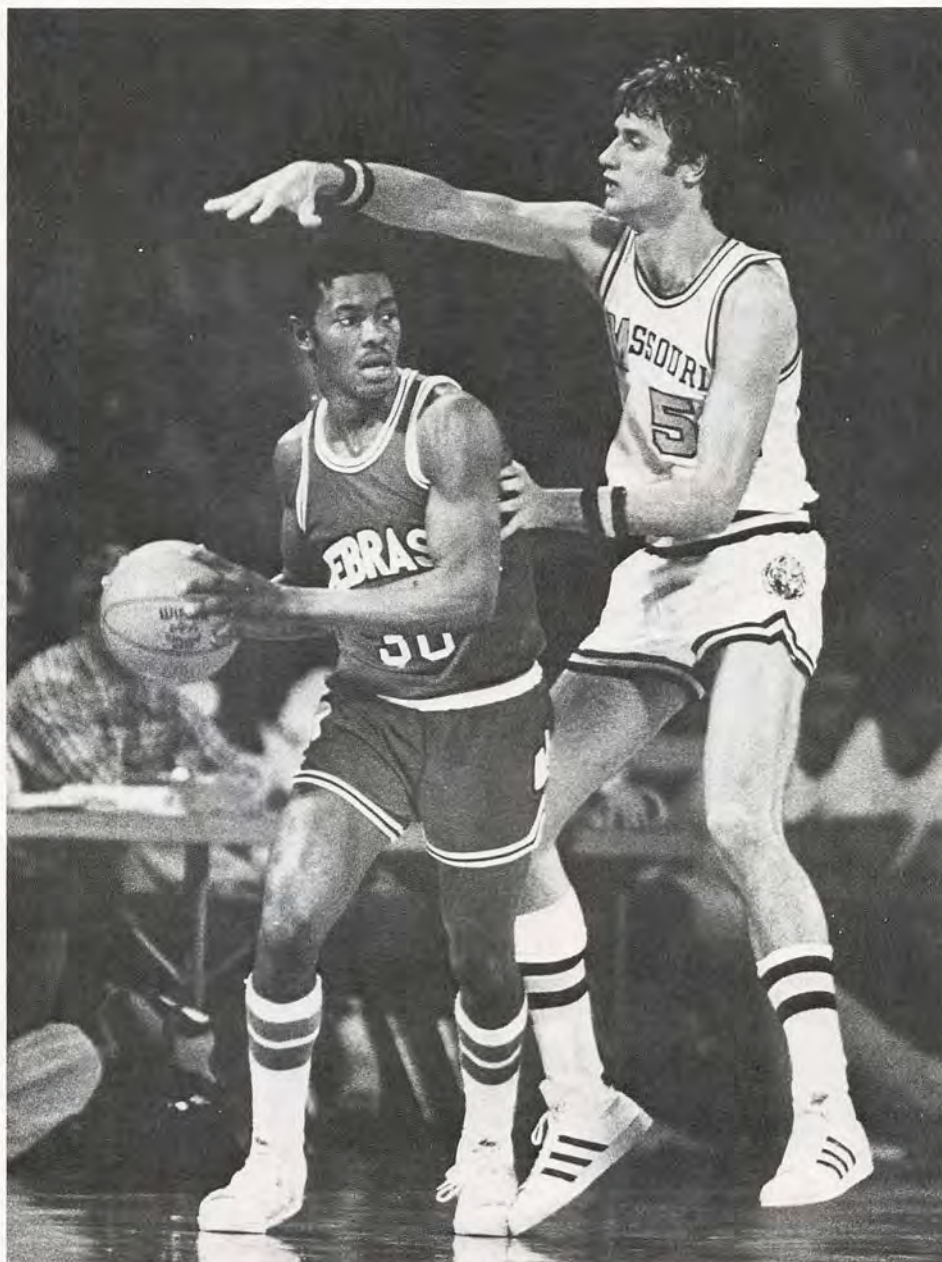
GAME NO. 1—December 28, 1978

Nebraska entered the tournament with the very difficult task of facing Missouri in the first game. Although not as strong as in recent years, the Tigers have historically been a menace to the Huskers in tournament play. The Huskers, obviously, had not forgotten last year's post-season tournament upset loss to Missouri which prevented Nebraska from participating in the NCAA tournament.

It seemed to be a game, "That got to the point of not who wanted to win, but who was going to give it to the other team," Cipriano commented after the overtime win. "We missed Brian in the second half and were not team coordinated. We were fortunate to win and are going to have to start playing together as a team to win more games," he added.

Carl McPipe led the way for the Huskers with 16 points and eight rebounds, but it was the defense that was responsible for keeping Nebraska in the game. "Our defense was pretty good," added Cipriano. "It kept us close and eventually won it for us."

The Huskers held a 29-22 halftime advantage, but the absence of Banks and a mistake riddled second half accounted for



In Nebraska's big win over a tough Oklahoma Sooner team, Bob Moore poured in 17 points to lead the Huskers to a 69-53 victory. Ted Kirk photos.

the closeness of the game.

NEBRASKA 58-MISSOURI 56 (Overtime)

Husker Leaders: Carl McPipe-16 points, 8 rebounds; Gerard Myrthil-13 points, 4 rebounds; Bob Moore-10 points, 5 rebounds; Andre Smith-9 points, 8 rebounds.

Attendance-13,157

Halftime-Nebraska 29-Missouri 22

GAME NO. 2—December 29, 1976

Advancing to the second round, Nebraska's next opponent was one of the hottest teams in the Big 8. Colorado, while a young squad, brought into the game an outstanding 9-1 record and a truckload of confidence.

Calling the Buffs hot was a gross

understatement as sharpshooters Emmett Lewis and Brian Johnson proved too much for the Nebraska defense to handle.

In leading the Buffaloes to a 74-61 victory, Lewis finished the game with 31 points while Johnson added 20 and 13 rebounds.

The Husker defense, which was praised for its performance against Missouri did not receive the same accolades from Cipriano after the Colorado showing. "We did not play with any intensity on defense in the first half," said the Husker mentor. "We could not stop Lewis or Johnson who were very good offensively. Emmett Lewis is a good player. You can not give him a lot of freedom or he will hit the open shot."

Evaluating the entire game, Cipriano



The strength and intimidating factor of Carl McPipe continually keeps the Husker's in contention against bigger and quicker teams. Ted Kirk photos.

added, "Obviously we are a better basketball team with Brian Banks, but that is no excuse, Colorado played very well."

COLORADO 74-NEBRASKA 61

Husker Leaders: Andre Smith-15 points, 5 rebounds; Gerard Myrthil-14 points, 4 rebounds; Mike Naderer-12 points, 5 rebounds; Bob Moore-12 points, 2 rebounds.

Attendance-16,817

Halftime-Colorado 45-Nebraska 37

GAME NO. 3—December 30, 1978

Saving the best for last, the Huskers played one of their finest games of the year in handing Oklahoma a 69-53 pasting for third place honors. Cipriano termed the victory, "A nice way to end the tournament.

We have been struggling, but the way we played this afternoon is how we have to play to be a good basketball team."

Still it was obvious that the Huskers were missing Banks, who was on the bench in street clothes, Cipriano said, "We played with more patience and we showed poise even without Brian Banks. After playing three straight days, I have to give our club a lot of credit for coming back."

Senior Bob Moore had his biggest day this season as he finished with 17 points and four assists. Freshman Jerry Shoecraft enjoyed his best day as a Cornhusker with 12 points and four rebounds.

So the Huskers finish in the same position as last year in the final Big 8

Holiday Tournament. With a smile on his face, Cipriano said, "Next year at this time I'll be on the beach—unless things go real bad all of the sudden."

NEBRASKA 69-OKLAHOMA 53

Husker Leaders: Bob Moore-17 points, 3 rebounds; Carl McPipe-12 points, 10 rebounds; Jerry Shoecraft-12 points, 4 rebounds; Andre Smith-11 points, 7 rebounds.

Halftime-Nebraska 35-Oklahoma 24

REBEL ROUNDUP—Las Vegas Convention Center

GAME NO. 1—December 22, 1978

NEBRASKA 75-CALIFORNIA-SANTA BARBARA 55

Husker Leaders: Andre Smith-18 points, 8 rebounds; Jack Moore-11 points, 3 rebounds; Carl McPipe-18 points 7 rebounds.

Attendance-6,376

Halftime-Nebraska 28-UCSB 28

GAME NO. 2—December 23, 1978

NEVADA-LAS VEGAS 79-NEBRASKA 63

Husker Leaders: Carl McPipe-15 points, 6 rebounds; Andre Smith-12 points, 17 rebounds; Mike Naderer-10 points, 1 rebounds; Bob Moore-10 points, 3 rebounds.

Attendance-6,376

Halftime-UNLV 35-Nebraska 31

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM

Carl McPipe-Nebraska

Andre Smith-Nebraska

Tony Smith-UNLV

Greg Joyner-MTSU

Matt Maderos-UCSB

JOE CIPRIANO UPDATE: Dean of the Big 8 coaches, 'Cip' has a Nebraska school record of 229-175 to the end of the Holiday Tournament. In his sixteen years at Nebraska, he has more wins than any other NU head mentor in history.

In nineteen years of coaching, including a 1960-63 stint at Idaho, 'Cip' has a career mark of 272-210. One of the most colorful coaches in the country, Cipriano was the UPI Big 8 "Coach of the Year" in 1978. Last year his team was 22-8 and appeared in the National Invitational Tournament.

Cipriano reflects on the tournaments, "We came out of the Big 8 Pre-season with mixed feelings. We were happy with the win over Missouri, but we did not play that well. That same feeling showed up against Colorado and we lost that game. But we had a complete turnaround against Oklahoma and played probably our best game of the year. You also have to remember that was without Brian Banks, so it will be a tremendous plus when he does return." ■

It's Magic, And A

Not wanting our Orange Bowl recap to be a complete rephrasing of everything the newspapers had printed, we sent Joe Starita down to Miami to cover the behind-the-scenes situation before, during, and after the game. Our focus was the fans, perhaps the most integral part of the fanatical football force in America today. Going into hibernation after the affair, Joe filed the following report.

by Joe Starita

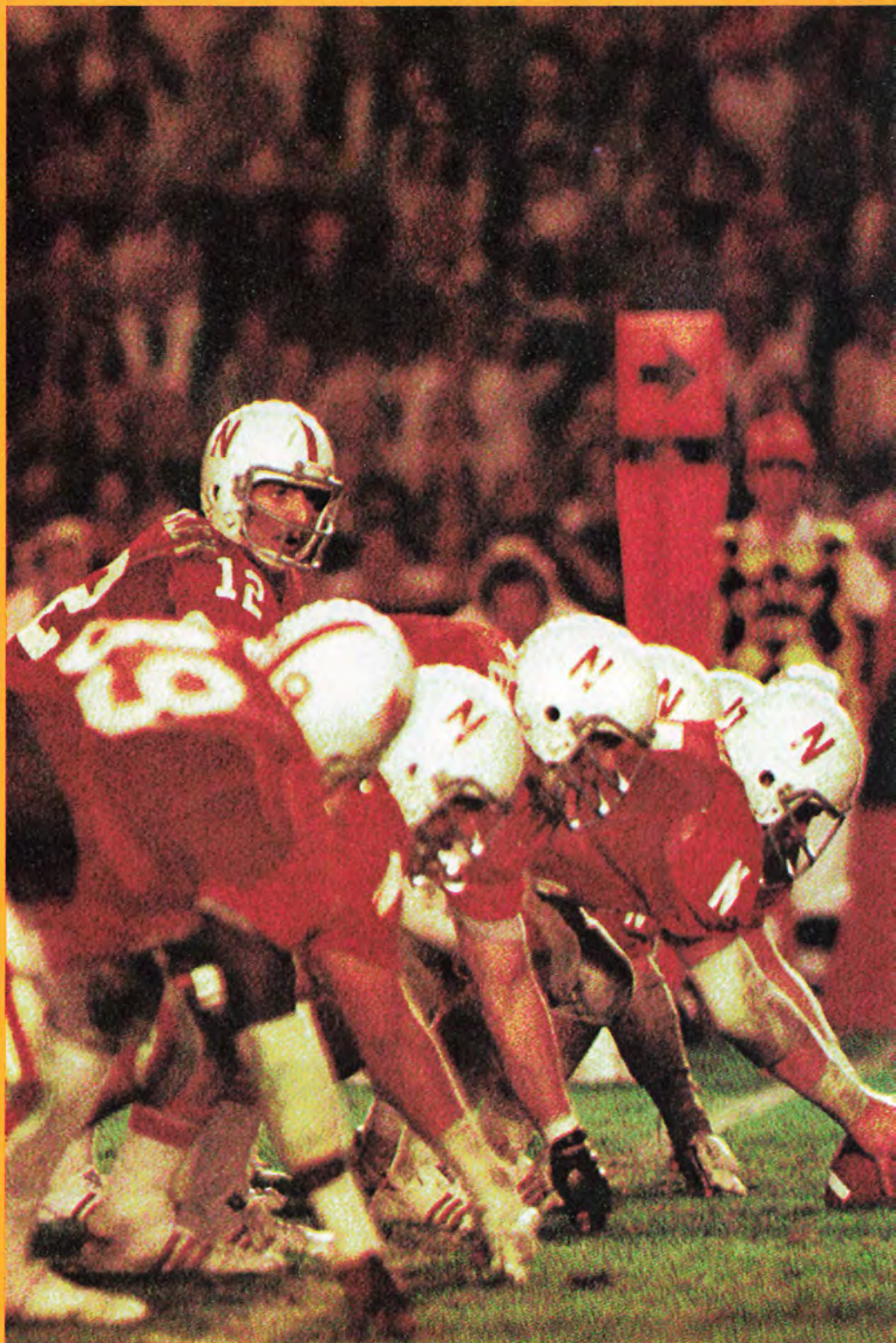
The dapper man in the chocolate leisure suit dabs at the last splinter of Key Lime pie, slides away from a tabled stack of Stone Claw Crabs, a litter of empty wine liters and half-filled coffee cups and makes his way through a packed glitter of white pumps and matching belts, mink shawls and fox-trimmed stoles. Past neon plaids and electric blue slacks, burnt orange blazers and crimson trousers. Past Bermuda shorts and Maybelline eyes, platinum coifs and yellow beehives. Past bunkers of mascara clustered around the door.

He pauses at the door, sucks in a blast of ocean mist and says he came to Miami to see a good Orange Bowl game.

"I saw Oklahoma play down here last year and they stunk. I don't really care who wins this one as long as it's a good game," says Gale Sayers, the former Omaha Central and Kansas University star, who went on to have a few pretty fair games with the Chicago Bears.

Sayers has just exited a Miami Beach hangout called "Joe's." It, much like Miami, is a strange mixture of quality food, excessive pomp, outrageous wealth and tacky elegance. Sayers, like thousands of others, has descended upon the land of sun and fun to mix in a little wining and dining before settling in to the last bowl game of New Year's Day. It's still two days before the red-and-white clad Sooners and red-and-white clad Huskers will tromp before their red-and-white clad fans to continue college football's best hit show of the 1978 season — Oklahoma—Nebraska, Part II.

And although Sayers professes to be neutral about the game's outcome, the same cannot be said of the legions who



A Little Crazy Too



have left Miami's endless vertical strip of concrete neon awash with red. Gazing down Biscayne Boulevard or Collins Avenue a full 48 hours before kickoff, Moses might have had second thoughts before trying to part this one.

From Sooner headquarters at the Four Seasons Hotel to the Nebraska watering hole at the Americana nine miles away, the palm trees and canals, harbors and taverns are rubbing elbows with people in strange hats, strange shoes. People who speak in strange accents. All under a sky of gun-metal grey.

Grey? As in clouds and cold and wind and rain? Precisely. With the exception of a day or two of sun and sand, the more than 24,000 BIG RED migrants to Miami came out on the short end of the solar stick. It rained and blew and stormed and poured most of the week preceding the Nebraska-Oklahoma shootout. Three days into the new year, South Florida was hit with a record-setting cold wave that would have sent many Orange Bowl fans scurrying north to thaw out if it wasn't the Sooners and Huskers.

Despite the unseasonably cold and wet weather, few Nebraskans took refuge in their hotel rooms. They lounged around hotel pools. Many took in the ocean for the first time. Knots of red-shirted, red-hatted Nebraskans wandered about the Port of Miami, gazing at freighters, yachts, cruise ships and fishing rigs. Many saw sea planes land and take off from aquatic runways for the first time. In Winnebagos, campers, station wagons and rent-a-cars, they drove up and down the palm-lined boulevards, often pausing for a drawbridge or two before driving on. When's the last time you hit a red light and watched a sailboat pass in front of your bumper?

And they drank. Oh my, yes, did they drink. They drank at poolside bars, in hotel pubs, at fancy restaurants and little-known

Head to head they met in Miami for the second time. This time, unfortunately, the Huskers couldn't get the breaks and the turnovers to defuse the awesome Sooners. Still, at the very end of the game, the Huskers had a chance but came up short on a crucial fourth-down try. After their failure down close, time and momentum ran out. Ted Kirk photo.



(above) In forgotten fashion, coach Osborne gathers his defensive troops in an attempt to rally their waning spirits after 17 third quarter Sooner points. One of the men they had to stop was Billy Sims. Ted Kirk photo

dives. They drank strawberry daquaris, pina colodas, bottles of Perrier and cases of Budweiser. They knew the Orange Bowl would be the main course and there were plenty of martinis to quaff before dinner was served.

As Orange Bowl night drew closer the activities became more frenzied. There may have been more Nebraskans at the Americana and Singapore Hotels than in Waverly, Ord or Louisville. At a nearby Ramada Inn, 25 University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who had traveled to the game in a cramped van were hunkered down in a single room.

By New Year's Eve, sections of Miami Beach looked like a red ant colony gone berserk. At the Americana, an enormous Christmas tree flanked one end of the cavernous lobby.

Along the corridors of the upstairs floors red-eyed fans sought the stability of the outer walls to guide them from one room party to the next. Doors opened and closed with the regularity of TV commercials. Greetings of "Hey, it's Bob and Mary, come on in and join the fun," were launched every 30 seconds.

Outside the Nebraska hotel head-

quarters the pace hardly slackened. An hour into 1979, a mini-fleet of Mercedes cruised up the semi-circular drive and stopped in front of the hotel entrance. Exit a group of Latins, drinks in hand, satin gowns and svelte suits shimmering. After jamming home a Bossa Nova special in the eight-track cartridge player, the late-night revelers turned the Americana driveway into a Latin disco. As the beat grew louder and the dancing more frenzied, the hotel steps turned into impromptu bleachers for Husker fans bent upon getting the most out of New Year's Eve, Miami style.

New Year's Day dawns bright and warm, but few fans are around to see any of the morning. By early afternoon the leisurely build-up for the long-awaited rematch begins. Hotel doors at the Americana and Four Seasons nudge open, ushering swim-suited hangovers down to poolside. Drinks are sipped, lawn chairs thrown back to enjoy the 78 degree weather.

By 5:30 a measurable change has taken place. The sun seems to have restored renewed energy. Showers have been taken, binoculars packed, flasks filled as hotel lobbies from Coral Gables to Hollywood begin swarming with the most

sustained blaze of red clothing Miami has seen.

They swarmed into the lobbies and out the steps and into buses, cars, limos and taxis. They talked about revenge and slaughters and who's No. 1 and how's it going to feel to get beat by the same team twice in one season.

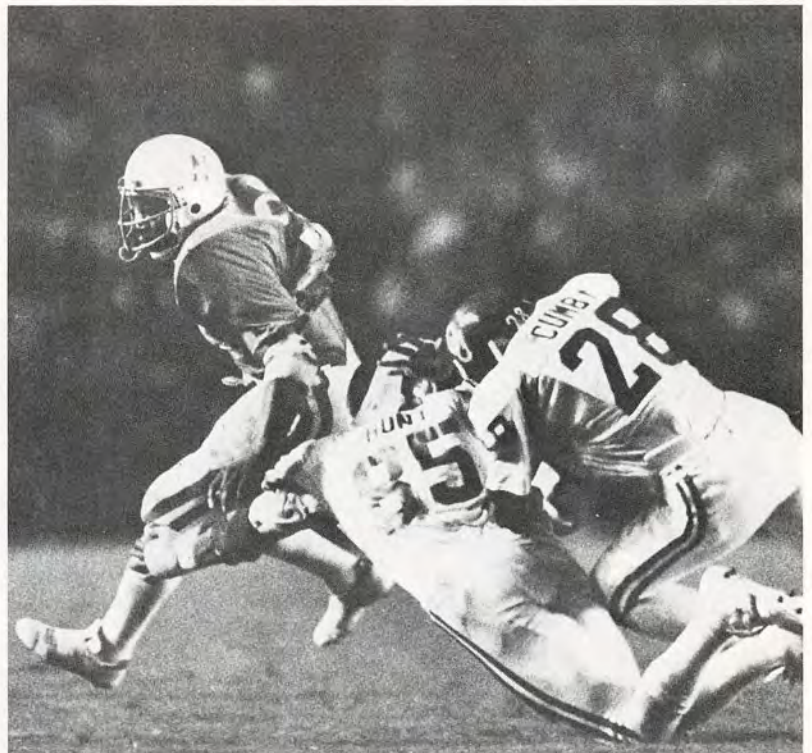
But despite the convergence of two of the most loyal and rabid groups of fans, there was surprisingly little violence throughout the week-long Orange Bowl venture. The caravan winding its way to the 8 p.m. affair resembled a Mardi Gras crowd more than a motorized lynch mob.

The fired-up, juiced-up, but manageable mob turned the asphalt path rimming the stadium into a state fair midway. Packed red shirts to white buck shoes the crowd traded good-natured barbs, mocked one another's predictions, fought off Hare Krishna solicitors and proved an impenetrable mass for official Orange Bowl cars to wade through. They came through the floodgates in red-and-white cowboy boots, hats, beanies, suspenders. They waved pennants, balloons and banners—GO BIG RED!

They marched inside and sat on opposite



(above) Rick Berns was the leading ground gainer for the Huskers. (above right) The defense, led by George Andrews and Bruce Dunning were able to contain Billy Sims for the first half only. Ted Kirk photos.



I.M. Hipp gained 66 yards on 18 carries and caught one pass for 14 yards for the game. Ted Kirk photo.

sides of the brilliantly lit stadium, above the lush natural grass, trying to see which side could whip itself into the most vocal frenzy.

Nebraskans won that battle, hands down. When a group of Nebraskans paraded an enormous "GO BIG RED" banner in front on the Sooner section, Oklahomans sent forth a wave of boos. As if to show them where the numerical superiority lay, Husker fans sent a thunderous, deafening roar rumbling across the field. It sounded like just another home game at Memorial Stadium.

Perhaps the unusual loyalty of both groups could best be seen by taking a closer look at some of the more severely bitten fans.

Meet Cecil "Big Red" Samara, for instance. He was seated among the Oklahoma rooters because Cecil Samara is an Oklahoma fan. One needn't be blessed with overpowering intelligence to figure that out.

Cecil Samara's teeth spell B-I-G R-E-D when he smiles. They were custom crafted by a dentist in Oklahoma City. His glasses have the word "Sooner" on each stem. He

pulls up a red pant leg. His red-and-white cowboy boots have "Boomer Sooner" printed down each side. Samara has not missed an Oklahoma football game — home, bowl or away — in 32 years.

"And I dress like this 365 days a year," says Samara. "It ain't to be confused with cowboy clothes, either. This is an Oklahoma football fan outfit. I do have one black suit for funerals if a friend of mine dies, but this is how I dress and I'm damn proud of it."

Samara is also proud to offer his prediction on the game. "I predict Oklahoma is going to win this game by at least 18 points."

"Samara is nuttier than an oilwell," retorts a middle-aged man across the field. He's the one dressed in a flaming red-orange wig with a skull-length "N" stuck on the back. He's waving a placard that says: "Huskers Make It Two In A Row."

continued



With both Nebraska and Oklahoma claiming to be the biggest of the Big Reds, the fans painted the town of Miami red. Husker fans above show enthusiasm for their team near the sidelines at the Orange Bowl. (below) Like he had been all season long, Rick Berns was the iron man in the Husker backfield as he carried 19 times for 99 yards and one TD. Ted Kirk photos.



Met Husker Bob Rowe. At NU home games, Husker Bob shows up with the regularity of the opposing teams. And he's just about as visible. Some call him "Dancing Harry." On late autumn afternoons, he can be spotted in white jacket, red slacks and crimson cap, stalking every section of Memorial Stadium. He pleads and begs and claps and yells and hurls his fist forward, trailing sustained chants of "Go Big Red," "Go Big Red," "Go Big Red!"

In addition to his atomic red-orange wig, Husker Bob has mounted a white pukka shell necklace, red shirt, red pants and white shoes. This game is special, he explains.

"I only go all out for Oklahoma games. I won't wear this gear if Nebraska's playing anyone else — just Oklahoma," says the 25-year Lincoln resident. "This is my first trip to Miami, but it won't be my last. I have to admit the game's gonna be close, but Nebraska will definitely come out on top."

Well, the Huskers did come out and got on top right away. Nebraska took the opening kick-off and drove 80 yards in 6½ minutes. On the 15th play of the drive, quarterback Tom Sorley arched a 21-yard scoring toss to split end Tim Smith. The northwest and east sections of the stadium erupted in frenzy. The Husker fight song cranked up with a vengeance.

But it didn't last long. After failing to move on their first possession, Oklahoma went 69 yards in 12 plays to knot the score at seven-all with seven seconds left in the first quarter. Heisman Trophy winner Billy Sims did the most damage, spinning around left end for 17 and 11 yards before scoring on a two-yard dash through the right side of Nebraska's defense.

The Sooners used a Thomas Lott pass to help launch a second quarter touchdown drive covering 73 yards in seven plays. With a first down at the Nebraska 41, Lott took the snap, faked twice and found Steve Rhodes wide-open. Husker cornerback Andy Means slipped inside the 20, but Jeff Hansen caught up with Rhodes at the three. Lott went around right on the next play and Oklahoma led 14-7 at the half.

Nebraska outgained the Wishbone in the first half, racking up 207 total yards to Oklahoma's 166. But twice Husker drives stalled inside the Sooner 30 and twice they came up short when Billy Todd was wide with field-goal attempts from 44 and 46 yards.

The third quarter put the Huskers in a deep hole when Oklahoma scored two TD's and a field goal on their first three possessions of the second half. The Huskers entered the final quarter trailing 31-10, but as befits the character of this



In an awesome show of power, Oklahoma's Billy Sims bursts his way into the end zone after an 11-yard scamper in the third quarter. For the game, Sims gained 134 yards on 25 carries and scored two TD's. He didn't fumble once. Ted Kirk photo.

team, they never gave up.

Sorley, who completed 18 of 31 passes for 220 yards, moved Nebraska 78 yards in 15 plays to cut Oklahoma's advantage to 31-17 with nine minutes left in the game. Senior I-back Richard Berns, who had another magnificent game with 99 yards in 19 carries, crashed over from the one.

When Lott fumbled for the first and only time with 8:07 left in the 45th Orange Bowl Classic, Husker Bob, like every other Nebraska fan, was on his feet immediately. Sorley guided Nebraska to a fourth-down-and-one at the Sooner six. I-back Craig Johnson got the call but Oklahoma got the ball after officials, in a controversial decision, ruled Johnson had fallen just short of the first down.

That call became even more critical when Sorley hit tight end Junior Miller with a two-yard scoring strike on the game's final play. Many who were huddled around the NBC monitor working the sidelines felt the ball had been placed prematurely short. The debate continued far into the night. It went on back at the Americana, back in

scattered motel rooms and bars, back at late-night diners and early-morning fast-food chains.

But it didn't change the score and it didn't change the fact that this team out of Norman had evened the count at one apiece.

And it didn't change the good memories many Nebraskans were preparing to carry back north. The blimp, like an out-take from *Close Encounters*, sliding silently over the west rim of the stadium four hours earlier. The spectacular half-time show chipped disco-dazzling chunks of light out of the night air. The endless parade of great seafood platters. The waves and sand and palm trees everywhere. An occasional burst of sunlit warmth. Good friends, good parties, good times.

And besides, as one Husker fan in a flaming red-orange wig with a skull-length white "N" on back was heard to mutter, "Don't worry. The team, the fans, the whole state of Nebraska will be back in Miami at this time next year." ■

A SUPERSTAR OF SORTS



Everybody has their own notion of the unsung hero. To some it is that person who contributes to a worthy human effort and remains unrecognized or indistinguishable from the so-called superstars. The quiet sort, often shy, often staying out of the limelight purposely. For others, the unsung hero is the person who doesn't have a whole lot of ability, but still tries to contribute to some worthy cause in any way he can.

I stumbled on Bill Bryant's story purely by accident. In fact, it is lucky I ever knew who he was. I saw a picture of him standing on the sidelines after this year's Oklahoma game in Lincoln (see Nebraska, Dec. 1978). From looking at the picture, it seemed to me that Bill had scored the winning touchdown, recovered the key fumble, or something. I asked a fellow worker and he told me that that photo was Bill Bryant and that he was a leader on the sidelines, though he rarely got to play on the field.

I decided then and there that I had to meet this young man. Herein is the story that follows.

by Thomas Horton

You've attended every practice throughout your career at the University, always there, ready to do whatever the coach tells you, taking the hits and injuries like everybody else on the team. But come game day, you stand on the sideline watching your closest friends determine the outcome of the game. It is rare and usually late in the game, when the outcome is already decided, that you get your chance to put the hours of practice to work. But you know that your field time will be limited and that you will be pulled the second the opposing team threatens.

The bench-warmer, the sideline stander, the scout team member—the majority of them get angry and quit, or one day just don't show up for practice. The coaches and players quickly forget, the fans never notice, and if he is likely to be remembered at all it is because the equipment manager knows that he never turned in his helmet.

'Dollar' Bill Bryant has toiled at practice for four years. He has stood on the sidelines throughout most of his career, but somehow has stayed, survived, and come out of the experience not only one of the most liked and respected players on the team, but also a better man.

Of course there are thousands like Bryant around the country, but very few have adopted the philosophy that carry them to the point where he stands today.

"I thought about the situation for a long time," says 'Dollar'. "In fact, many times I just didn't want to go out to practice again. I knew I could play but when I accepted standing on the sideline I had to figure out a way to help the team. That's why I'm spirited on the sidelines. Those guys out there are the best friends I have ever had and the team means more to me than

anything I've ever done, so when they are out there it's kind of like I'm out there too."

Stalking up and down the sidelines during a game wearing unfamiliar number 95, Bryant can be seen comforting an upset player or screaming the loudest and whooping it up after a score or a long run. He's the first to congratulate, the first to console, and like a true Cornhusker he leads by example—namely motivation and inspiration—when he dons the Big Red jersey.

Things have not always been so for Bill Bryant however.

As a young boy in Alabama, Bill ran away from a broken home and stayed away for almost a year before he was caught. The judge, somewhat of an old southern aristocrat who Bill would grow closer to later in life, sent him to Nebraska and Boys Town.

"When I first got to Boys Town all the older and tougher kids made fun of my accent," Bryant recalls. "Of course those kids probably had never heard of Alabama, so that kind of put me at a disadvantage. I'll bet for the first month there all I did was get into fights with the rest of the kids.

Well, I was kind of afraid that the judge in Alabama would hear all my trouble and make me come back home, so I changed my ways. The people at Boys Town who were in charge constantly told us that we were special, that we were a unique team. After awhile it started to make sense."

"Anyway," Bryant grins, "I was starting to lose my accent and beginning to like Nebraska a whole lot."

Football came into Bryant's life while he was at Boys Town and in no time at all (especially considering his height and weight) he was starting both ways for his team. A rugged blocker and tenacious tackler, the boy from Alabama soon gained the respect of coaches and opponents. He was on his way to being named all-League when an unfortunate knee injury took the speed out of his legs.

"In many ways that injury did me in because after I missed a bunch of games I began to be afraid that I would never completely recover," Bryant muses. "When I finally did come back, I was so afraid of getting hurt again that my performance level dropped."

There was one game that I'll never forget though. It was against Benson and I was on defense when their speedy halfback broke through the line and headed into open field. "Well," 'Dollar Bill' grins with a sparkle in his eye, "you might not believe this, but I got so mad that I took off after him. He must have been 20 yards ahead of me. I forgot about my knee, everything, and I ran him down from behind and prevented the touchdown."

All the time at Boys Town, Bryant's grades continued to get better, he assumed responsibility around the town, and at one time narrowly lost a bid to become the mayor of Boys Town—a highly coveted position.

After finishing high school Bill had to decide if he wanted to go to college, and if so, did he want to play football. He wrote a letter to coach Tom Osborne and asked permission to be a walk-on candidate for the Cornhuskers. After being accepted, Bryant turned out for the team and was a starter on the frosh squad.

"The level of play in college was suddenly so much higher. The guys were bigger, faster, and they hit a good lick," Bryant says.



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(left) Bill Bryant, his hands wrapped in plastic for protection from the cold, whoops it up with teammates on the sidelines after the incredible win over the Sooners in Lincoln. Ted Kirk photo.



After four years of practice and very little playing time a man might quit the sport. Not Bill Bryant. "Why should I quit? My best friends are out there on the field. That's what is important," says Bryant.

At this time Bryant was given the name "Dollar" Bill by his teammates. Never receiving a scholarship from the university, Bryant was forced to support himself through college. Money was tight and it was difficult to hold down a part-time job while attending classes and football practice.

"I never had a lot of money, but what I have I am always willing to lend to one of my friends. Of course, I can't lend out all my money. I will lend money clear down to my last dollar, but I'll always keep that last bill in my pocket. I feel safe when I have that," said Bryant. Hence the name "Dollar" Bill stuck to this day with his friends and teammates.

After a successful frosh year during which Bryant saw much playing time, another knee injury forced him to redshirt his sophomore year. The lost time as well as lost speed because of the injury was instrumental in his never seeing much playing time as a collegiate.

At this point in his career Bill Bryant was at an all-time low. He wanted to quit the team. But he pulled out of his experiences at Boys Town a feeling of unity and

camaraderie that helped him last during seasons of discontent.

"When I started feeling low or disgusted about my situation, I would remember the group strength from which we would achieve great things at Boys Town. There were some tough dudes there, some real loners, but when we got together we could do incredible things," Bryant explains. "At Nebraska I just carried on the same attitude. If I can't be in there helping win the game, at least I can be on the sidelines, a part of the group, giving them all the help I can. I just accepted the fact that injury had taken away my speed. If I was going to love the game and be around my friends, then I was going to have to adjust my attitude to make it a great experience instead of an unhappy one."

Nebraska does have the type of offensive scoring punch that often puts a game out of reach early in the second half. For this reason, Bryant gets to see some playing time. This season he has seen enough time in order to earn his first letter. The biggest moment in his career?

"It was in the Indiana game this year. We

were just blowing them out by the end of the first quarter, so I knew I would get a chance to play. In the second half they put me in. On the first play I was playing defensive tackle. I remember number 16 (Scott Arnett) took the snap and I just fired off the line. Well, nobody blocked me so I just kept on coming. I hit him just as he was handing off and he fumbled. Then I scrambled for the ball and came up with the fumble. The coach gave me a 4-plus on that play because I had beat my man, got to the quarterback, caused a fumble, and recovered the fumble. All the guys on the sidelines were real happy for me, and of course, with the game being on television, I was really happy. It was the greatest moment of my career. I'll never forget that."

The ironic thing about Bryant's visit to Bloomington for the Indiana game was that he seriously sprained his ankle the night before the game but was still determined to play.

"It's kind of a funny story," Dollar Bill muses as he slips into his storytelling mood. "When coach Osborne says to be at the bus by 7:30 p.m., he actually means about ten minutes earlier. My roommate and I were talking or something when we realized that it was about 25 after seven and we were going to be late. We grabbed our stuff and ran like crazy for the buses. It was my first road trip and I didn't want to miss it. Just as we got to the parking lot, the buses were pulling away. I cut through this garden to try to head them off and as I was running I stepped into a hole and sprained my ankle bad. **I mean really bad!** It hurt so much I thought I had broken it but I didn't want to miss that bus so I kind of hobbled and ran as best I could. Well, I stopped the bus and got on and all my teammates thought it was so funny they were laughing and screaming. It must have looked pretty funny to see me straining to stop the bus. Man, the ankle hurt that night and I stayed up real late with ice on it so that I could play the next day. Even when I got to the stadium it hurt bad, but then it was going to be one of my few chances to play so I told them to tape it real tight. It was tender, but I played!"

In his five-year career at Nebraska (includes one year missed as a redshirt), Bill has seen the team go to the Cotton Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, Astro-Blue-Bonnet Bowl, Liberty Bowl, and this year the Orange Bowl. Because he was a member of the team, Bill was able to make trips to all these bowl games except the Cotton Bowl.

Bryant took a relaxing pose during the interview and began to tell some of his hilarious and infamous stories. Dollar Bill is a born storyteller. Ask him to tell a few stories and his eyes light up, he kind of

Continued

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Ted Kirk Photo

NEBRASKA

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A once promising high school athlete, Bill Bryant suffered two knee injuries that never allowed him to come into his own as a player.



In one of his rare appearances this season against Kansas, Bill Bryant (95) moves in on the Kansas quarterback. Though he doesn't get to appear very often, Bryant has found that by participating in the team effort in any way that he can, he gets great enjoyment out of being on the sidelines. Ron Samuel photo

smiles, and he begins to talk with a 'you're-not-going-to-believe-this' tone.

The stories are true, though like any good story, maybe the truth has been stretched to make the telling better.

"Right now I'm driving a '49 Plymouth. This is my tenth car since I've been here. I've had a '65 Chevy, a '63 Volkswagen, a '64 Plymouth, a '66 Chevy, a '69 Pontiac, a '68 Buick, etc. You see, I never pay more than \$50 to \$100 for each one. I drive them for two or three months and when they break down, I go out and find another one. No reason to put any money in them. One of them I only paid \$25 for.

Now this '49 Plymouth, it runs good. Probably the best car I've ever had. Rebuilt motor and everything. I just put it on the highway and go. People look, you know the paint's kind of faded, but it sure runs smooth.

Only one car I got a speeding ticket with. The Pontiac, a Custom S. I was doing 95 on my way to Omaha one night. Kind of a spur of the moment thing. Friday night and I decided to go visit some of my friends in Omaha. I jumped in the car and headed out, passing everything in sight. I figured it wouldn't take me more than 40 minutes to get there. At first I was doing 70, but then I got kind of greedy. I thought I was getting away with murder so I pushed it up to about 75 or 80. I was passing semis, everything. I got up to about 85 or 90 when I saw these headlights right on my tail. I figured somebody was back there in a bigger hurry than I was so I passed another semi and pulled over so this guy could get by me. Then the car pulled behind me and I was trying to figure out what was going on until I saw the lights come on. He pulled me over, asked for my driver's license, and I stood

there watching all the cars I had passed come driving by. Now that upset me. I might as well have driven 55 or 60. Luckily the guy only wrote me up for 70 mph. I was lucky . . . still, that was the only car I could get going that fast . . . it was a real beauty. All the rest of my cars I would really have to jump on them just to get them up to 55 . . . a real beauty it was . . . but then I never pay much for any of them . . .

And so Bill Bryant spins out tale after tale about his experiences with the team, and with just plain living in Nebraska. By the time a person has sat with him for an hour or so, they become infected with the likeable spirit and vitality of this fine young man.

Many would have quit. Many would have gone into an area where there is more glory. But Bill Bryant, determined to make the best of his situation, has created a way to help the team. He is the inspirational and

motivational leader of a squad he doesn't even play for. But that doesn't matter. He's made the best of his situation, something we all can learn from.

What lies in the future for 'Dollar' Bill Bryant?

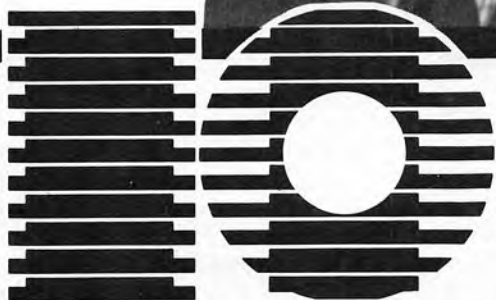
"After I graduate from Nebraska it looks like my grades are good enough to go to law school. I'd like to go to Creighton or Nebraska. You know, everytime I go back to Alabama that judge who sent me to Boys Town tells me that when I get out of law

school I'd better come back to Alabama and practice there. I think he's looking for a good assistant. But I think I'm going to stay here in Nebraska. I've been gone ten years and now all my friends are here. The state of Nebraska and the Nebraska football team have given me the best years of my life as well as the best friends I've ever had. I'm going to stay, go to law school, and see what happens."

A bright future for a young man who has suffered through the frustrations of a

broken home, the detentions of Boys Town, and four long years as a sideline stander for the Cornhuskers. It only shows how one can adjust to a bad situation and make the most of it — in fact, to grow tremendously from it. Such is the character of Bill Bryant, the quiet achiever on this year's Cornhusker squad. He is, without doubt, a superstar of sorts.

We all can learn a lesson from him. ■



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SWIMMING

KEEPING AFLOAT AT .500 OR BETTER



An unidentified Husker swimmer churns out the laps that are necessary if the team is going to compete well against the always strong teams from the Midwest. Ted Kirk photo.

by **Bill Bennett**

After a two week swing through Southern California during late December and early January, it appears that Cal Bentz has his Husker swimmers headed in the direction of a winning season.

The West Coast campaign netted the Huskers their second dual meet win of the season, 82-28 over Cal. St.-Irvine, and some national caliber competition in a loss to powerhouse USC, 86-54.

"Right now we're right at the .500 mark, but we want to be above that at the end of the season," Bentz said. "One of our losses was by only three points and the other to USC, so we're in pretty good position. I was optimistic about this team when I arrived here last spring and nothing has happened to change my attitude. I feel we have a tremendous group here and I expect good things from them."

The Huskers enter the second half of their schedule with a 2-2 dual record.

Three Nebraska varsity records have already fallen this season. Jerry Olszewski

shaved the 400 yd. individual medley record by two seconds to set the new mark at 4:17.25. Dick Conradt has set the 200 yd. freestyle mark at 1:45.39 and shares the 800 yd. freestyle relay record with Anders Rutqvist, Bengt Jonsson, and Joe Stanfield at 7:10.50.

However, the Huskers' accomplishment doesn't stop in the swimming pool. Freshman Steve Elliott, who also competes with the Nebraska gymnastics team, has already qualified for the NCAA meet in the three meter diving event. Steve, in four meets this season, is also undefeated at both the one & three meter diving levels.

The Huskers have two home meets in February before hosting the Big 8 Championships March 1-3. On Feb. 2 Chicago State and Oklahoma State come to Lincoln for a triangular and on Feb. 3 Nebraska hosts Missouri at the Bob Devaney Sports Center pool.

"I can't predict how the remainder of the season will go," Bentz said. "But I feel

realistically, that we should have a good shot against all the teams that we will be coming up against." ■

1978-79 Swimming Schedule

Dec. 1-2	at Big 8 Relays (Norman)
Dec. 8	at Colorado
Dec. 9	at Colorado State
Jan. 19-20	Nebraska Invitational
Jan. 26	at Iowa State
Jan. 27	at Iowa
Jan. 28	at Northern Iowa
Feb. 2	Chicago State with Oklahoma State
Feb. 3	Missouri (1:30 p.m.)
Feb. 10	at Oklahoma
Feb. 16	at Drury College
Feb. 17	at Kansas
March 1-3	Big 8 Championships

WRESTLING

Frosh Holding Down Fort

by Bill Bennett

There was no time off during the holidays for Nebraska's wrestling team as the Huskers competed in two invitationals and three dual meets.

On Dec. 22-23, Bob Fehrs' NU squad wrestled in the Northern Illinois Invitational dual wrestling meet and finished with a 2-2 mark. Nebraska beat Ohio University 24-13 and Illinois State 28-13, but lost to Northern Illinois 25-9 and Indiana 29-9.

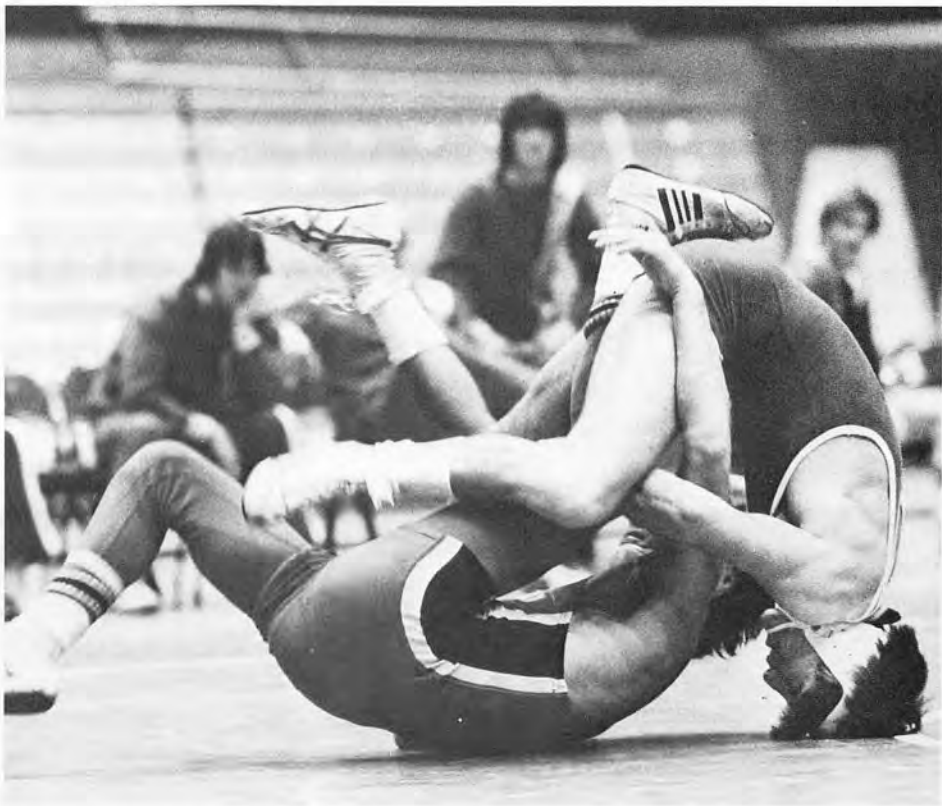
The Huskers returned home on Jan. 7 and defeated Lock Haven State 26-11. Fehrs described Lock Haven "as a good wrestling team and the win for us certainly gave our squad a lot of needed confidence."

Pacing the Huskers was junior heavyweight George Rambour, who wrestled to an 8-8 tie with Lock Haven's Greg Kunz, who is the eighth rated collegiate heavyweight in the country.

Other top Nebraska performances against Lock Haven were victories by 126 pound freshman Rick Whitehead and 134 pound junior Agron Vasha.

"I'm relatively pleased with our team up to this time," Fehrs said. "Obviously we'd like to do better, but under the circumstances, we're doing reasonably well. Against Lock Haven, our freshmen seemed to be wrestling with more maturity and experience. And when you're wrestling six frosh like we are, that's very important."

Nebraska, now 3-5 overall, as of Jan. 10th, closed out the holiday season in Colorado. On Jan. 11, the Huskers wrestled Colorado State in a dual and then traveled to Boulder on Jan. 12 and faced Colorado. On Jan. 13, Nebraska will participate in the Colorado Invitational. ■



(above) Standing on his head in order to win the victory, 134-pounder Agron Vasha secures needed points in the Husker's 8-8 tie with Lock Haven. (below) Rick Whitehead, a 126-pounder, and only a freshman, won against Lock Haven too in a crucial match. Ted Kirk photos.



WOMEN'S SPORTS

Basketball

New Records Each Time They Take The Floor

By Ryly Jane Hambleton

In the midst of a record-setting basketball season, Husker first-year coach Lorrie Gallagher is striving to prove that Nebraska's women's basketball team can do even more and break even more records.

The Huskers have bolted to a 10-5 record as of 1/9/79, the best start ever for the university's women's team, and have erased many individual and team single game marks.

"We have team goals and they always come first for everyone," said Gallagher, "and whatever is best for the team as a whole, is what the girls want. But when a player has a chance for a record and it fits in our game plan, that's just fine, too."

Junior Diane DelVigna is leading the Huskers in scoring, averaging 19.2 points per game. Sophomore center Carol Garey is scoring at a 15.0 points-per-game clip and leads the team in rebounding, averaging 10.5 caroms a game. Starting forward Jan Crouch, the Huskers' all-time leading scorer, has handed out 56 assists and has blocked 12 shots. Garey set the record of 19 rebounds in one game, freshman center Janet Smith blocked four shots in one game for a new NU record, and DelVigna has tied the single game scoring record twice this season, with 29 points against Colorado and South Dakota State. The team erased three single game records against Wayne when the Huskers scored 98 points, hit 44 field goals and shot .611 from the floor.

Following an extended road trip, the Lady Huskers will return to Lincoln to host the Big Eight Championships. The Huskers will then travel to UNO, Central Missouri and to Kansas City, where they will meet Northwest Missouri State in a prelim to the Kansas City Kings game with the Cleveland Cavaliers. ■



Starting forward Jan Crouch is the leading scorer and shot blocker in Husker history. Great timing, as well as excellent leaping ability, allows her to reject opponent's shots. Ted Kirk photo.



Reba Govier, hitter, goes high in the air for her special spike. Mike Hlevyack photo.

VOLLEYBALL — Year Around Involvement

After a two-month break from competitive volleyball, the NU squad is ready for more volleyball. And coach Terry Pettit could not be happier.

"You'd think that after nationals the team might have wanted to stop playing volleyball for quite awhile," he said. "But

they wanted to go right back to work."

Pettit and his second-year team finished the season with a 35-25 mark. The Huskers defeated Kentucky in pool play at the national meet at the University of Alabama, 15-8, 0-15, 15-12. The other four matches were not as pleasant for the NU team, losing to San Diego 15-4, 15-13, Ohio State 15-2, 16-14, and Rutgers 16-14, 15-2.

"The girls saw some things being done at nationals that they are sure they can do, so we're going back to work," Pettit said. The group will remain together for the open season as a United States Volleyball Association team. Practicing five times a week, and doing individual weight training three days a week, the training schedule is just as rigorous as during the university season.

"There is not nearly as much pressure on the girls during the open season," Pettit explained. "The tournaments are more relaxed and informal. And during practice, instead of emphasizing team fundamentals which we must do during our university season, we can work on individual techniques.

"This is the time of year when the girls improve individually much more," he continued. "We set three goals for the open season. First, we want the girls to get as much experience as possible. Second, we like to try people in new positions to see if anyone should be playing at a better suited place. Third, I will be trying some new offenses and defenses. We just can't do that when we're in the middle of our university season."

The team will begin practicing at the outset of the second semester and is slated to participate in tournaments in St. Louis, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Kansas City and Lincoln. ■

INDOOR TRACK — GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Some coaches are optimistic by nature, but Nebraska women's track coach Carol Frost has plenty of tangible reasons to be optimistic about her team's chances this season.

"We lost just one girl to graduation and we had an excellent season recruiting, so we should be even better than last year," Frost said. And last year was the best year yet for Husker women. The indoor team was 2-0 in dual meets and won the Cornhusker and Missouri Invitationals.

Following a third-place showing in the Big Eight last year, the NU squad finished fourth in the National Invitational meet in

Missouri. Janet Bates claimed the conference title in the long jump and Donna Fox was the National Invitational 1,000-yard run champion.

"We hope to be improved as a team primarily because of the team experience. With our schedule of competing week in and week out against the best competition in the midwest, we want to have as good a win-loss record as last year," Frost said.

Two seniors, Pam Koontz and Deb Raddatz, lead the field events contingency. Bates, who also captured the outdoor Big Eight long jump championship, and freshman Sharon Burrill will lead the jumpers. Koontz is a javelin and discus specialist while Raddatz is a shot putter.

Senior Cindy Dixon, who finished fifth in the nation outdoors in the mile, will anchor the distance team. She will be joined by Carol Shenk, who finished 30th in the AIAW national meet this year as a freshman.

Fox returns to head the middle distance runners. Freshman Tami Essingotn, who was the two-time Illinois state 880 champ and the International Friendship Games winner at that distance, will join Fox and five others.

Sophomores Cindy Tatum and Julie Seaton return to the sprint team. Tatum was second in the 300-yard dash in both the Big Eight and the National Invitational and Seaton claimed the outdoor 400 meter Big Eight title.

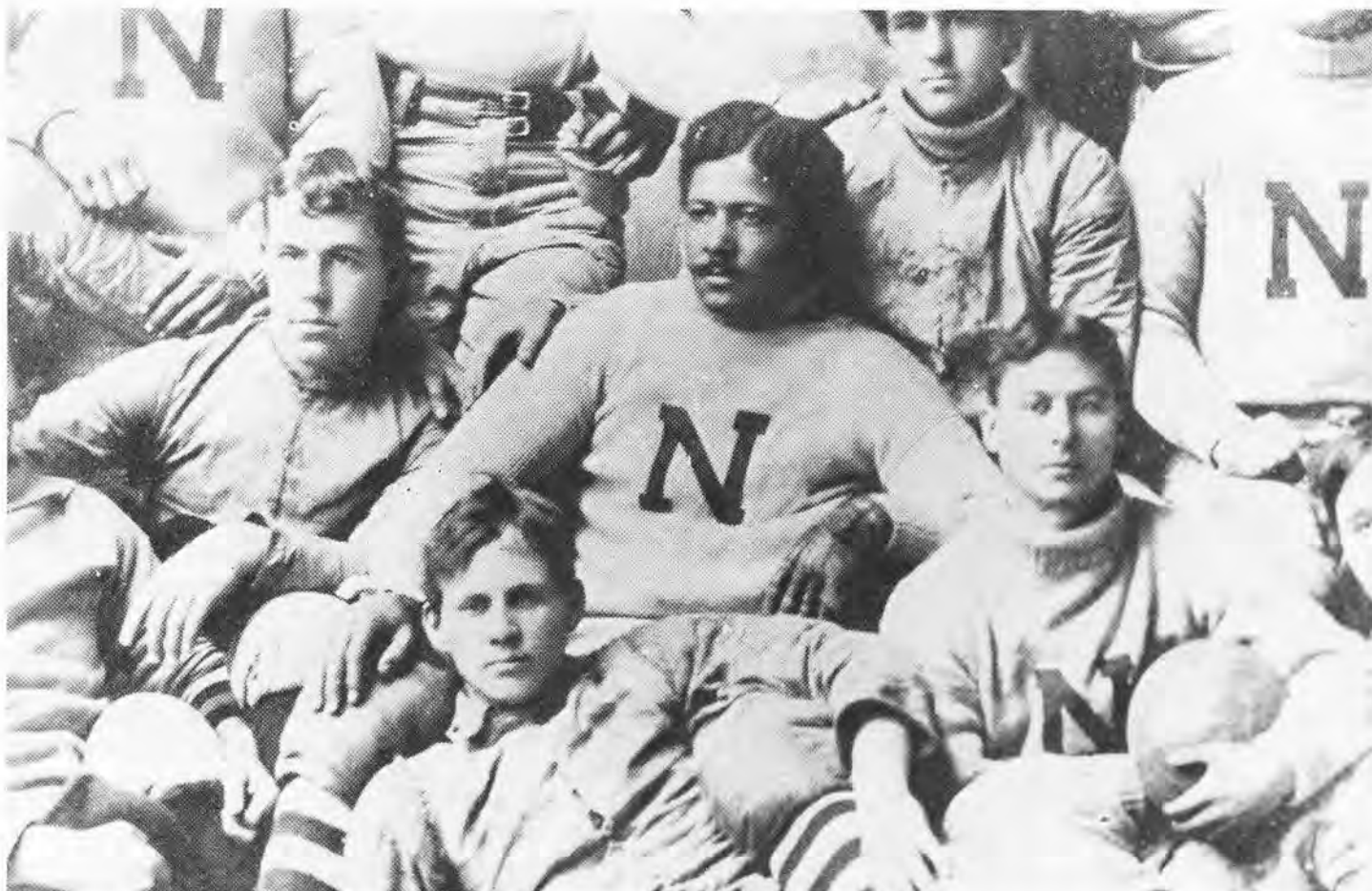
Nancy Kindig, who finished sixth in the nation in the pentathlon last year, will be competing in both that event and the hurdles.

Even though Frost is optimistic about the Husker track outlook, she is quick to acknowledge the Iowa State Cyclones.

"Iowa State should probably win the Big Eight. They return everyone from last year's championship team and they also recruited well," Frost explained. "It will be a battle for second between Kansas, Kansas State and Nebraska." ■

EDITOR'S NOTE

Women's swimming and gymnastics have not had any activity since our last issue. Stay tuned, however, for a complete report next month as Nebraska Magazine brings you all the Cornhusker action!



Before there were helmets and hip pads, cleats or any other type of protective devices, the boys of Nebraska journeyed to Omaha to start the game of football in Nebraska. What then was just a foreign game trying to find a foothold, is now a proud tradition in the Cornhusker state. Photo courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

History of Husker Sports

The First Football Game

Thanksgiving has traditionally been a big day for Nebraska football. In the recent past many Oklahoma-Nebraska games have been played on that date, with the most memorable being the game of the century in 1971. But the game of last century, as far as Nebraska was concerned, was played on Thanksgiving Day, 1890. This day was the very first game ever played by the University of Nebraska, thus starting Big Red's proud football tradition.

The site was Omaha. A spirited group of forty students, 14 of them players, took a train ride from Lincoln to play the Omaha Y.M.C.A. team. The coachless Nebraskans were led by their team captain and offensive and defensive star of the game left halfback Ebenezer E. Mockett. The Uni's, as they were called then, were adorned in, "Neat Canvas suits with black stockings and caps, with the letters U. of N. making a very pretty showing." After a dinner at the

expense of the boys from the YMCA, the game was played at a baseball park with kickoff time being at 2:45 p.m.

The first half was marked by two controversial calls by the officials. The first was when Morrow, the Nebraska kicker, was trying for a goal from the field, (a five point goal by today's rules) that would have given Uni a five zip lead, but the referee ruled that it was a punt rather than a drop kick thus the points were disallowed.

The second call was on a fumble recovery in Omaha's end zone. The official signaled that a Uni player had recovered the ball — scoring a touchdown for Nebraska. But a dispute erupted, and the official changed his mind and ruled that Omaha had recovered thus giving Nebraska only a two-point safety rather than a four-point touchdown. Because of another Omaha fumble, Nebraska was able to score a safety and take a four to nothing halftime lead.

The second half was played in much the same fashion with Omaha fumbling the ball away on many occasions. Because of this, Omaha was forced to play with poor field position. Nebraska scores came on another safety and a touchdown. The final score was Nebraska 10, Omaha YMCA 0.

After the game there was concern as to the reaction of the losing YMCA team. As one account puts it, "We hardly thought that the Omahans would let us ride back on the same street cars with them; but they did; they're good fellows, and took their defeat manfully."

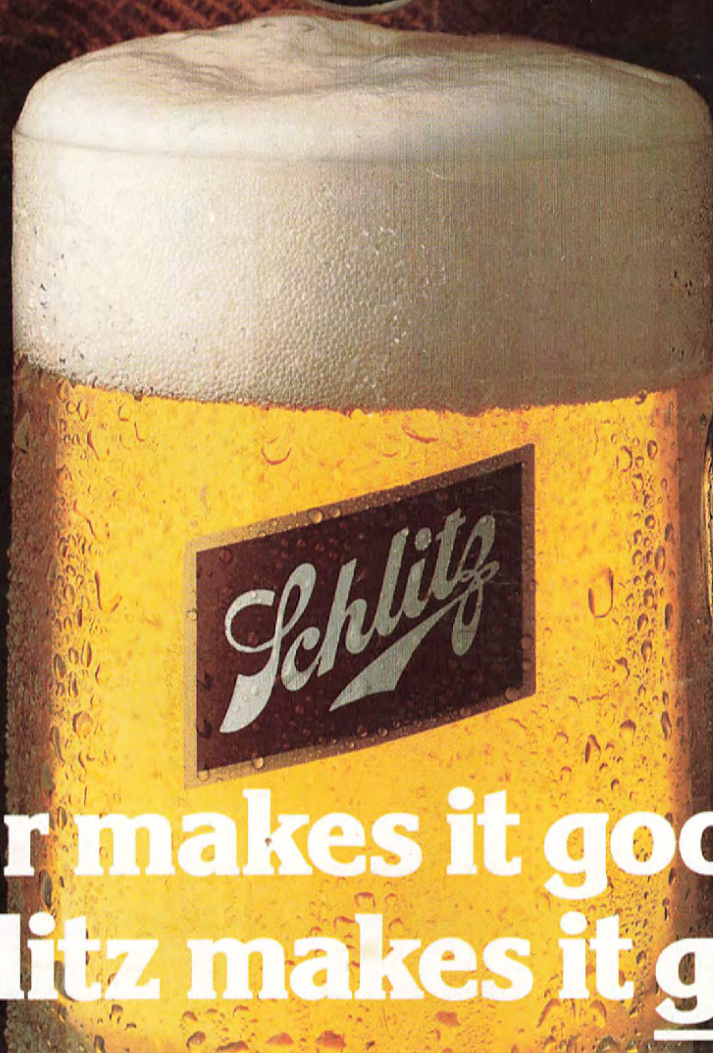
The train ride back to Lincoln was a joyous one, with singing and merrymaking. The train was met by a large throng of N.U. students, who celebrated the first Nebraska victory long into the night.

So started a tradition that to this day is carried on by the always faithful, usually victorious, Cornhusker fans. ■

Bonus Situation.



First Draft Pick



er makes it good.
hlitz makes it great.